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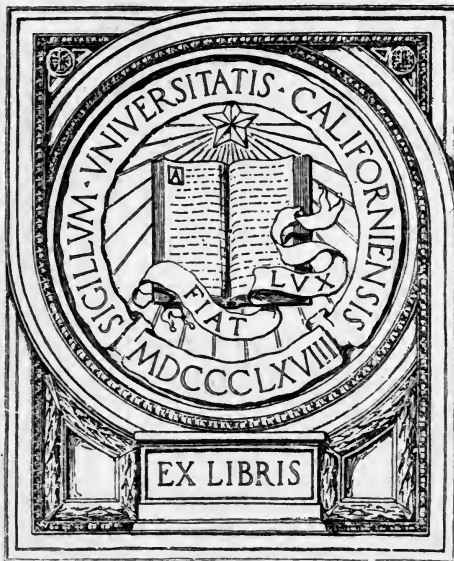
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Thomas B. Harper.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN COMMEMORATION OF

HON. THOMAS B. HARPER,

LATE A SENATOR

FROM THE TWELFTH DISTRICT,

TUESDAY MARCH 7 1911.

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TO NEW
ANNOUNCED

RESOLUTION.

In the Senate,
March 8, 1911.

Resolved (if the House of Representatives concur),
That one thousand (1,000) copies of the proceedings
of the memorial services, held in honor of the late
Honorable Thomas B. Harper, be printed for the use
of the Senate.

HARMON M. KEPHART,
Chief Clerk of the Senate.

The foregoing resolution concurred in March 13,
1911.

THOMAS H. GARVIN,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved—The 15th day of March, A. D. 1911.

JOHN K. TENER.



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
UPON THE DEATH OF
HON. THOMAS B. HARPER.

In the Senate,
Tuesday, February 21, 1911.

On motion of Senator Heacock, the following resolution was twice read, considered and agreed to, viz:

Resolved, That a committee of eight members of the Senate be appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of the late Senator, Thomas B. Harper, who died on May eighteen, one thousand nine hundred and ten, and present said resolutions at a special meeting to be held on Tuesday afternoon, March seven, at three o'clock.



MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS AND ADDRESSES.

In the Senate,
Tuesday, March 7, 1911.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The time of recess having elapsed the Senate was called to order at three o'clock post meridian, the President Pro Tempore, Mr. Crow, in the chair.

PRAYER.

Prayer was offered by Reverend Harry Nelson Bassler, as follows:

Heavenly Father, we recognize to-day the strength and beauty of Thy promises unto us, when Thou hast said, I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

We recognize anew that here below we have no continuing city, but that we are traveling to that city whose builder and maker is God. Prepare us more and more for that day and life. We thank Thee for the life—for the association and the companionship of our brother. Help us by Thy grace and by Thy sustaining power to appreciate more and more those whom God sent into our life. May we exemplify all that is true and beautiful and good in them. May we perpetuate those virtues that we have found in them.

Those who mourn strengthen, comfort and keep them, lead them and us by Thy presence so that when life's work is over, and life's race run, we may enter that home made by hands eternal in the heavens. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mr. HEACOCK. Mr. President, I offer the following resolutions:

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to call to Him on May 18, 1910, the Honorable Thomas B. Harper, the Senator from the Twelfth District, and

Whereas, His public character and services demand prominent commemoration; therefore be it

Resolved, That the loss to his own community and to his many associates is irreparable. The loss to the Commonwealth is great, but the greatest of all is to his own home, and we, the members of the Senate surviving, tender our condolence to his family so bereaved and direct that a copy of these resolutions, duly engrossed and attested, be forwarded to his widow.

JOSEPH HEACOCK,
CHARLES H. KLINE,
FRANCIS S. McILHENNY,
FRANK E. BALDWIN,
OSCAR E. THOMSON,
THEODORE M. KURTZ,
EDWIN H. VARE,
CLARENCE J. BUCKMAN.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the resolutions?

ADDRESSES.

Mr. HEACOCK. Mr. President, The death of the late Senator, Thomas B. Harper, who died on May eighteenth, one thousand nine hundred and ten, has been a great loss to the district he represented, and coming so suddenly was a great shock to all who knew him, for every one was his friend and he was the friend of every one.

I knew Senator Harper from his birth and had previously known his parents and grandparents. When I was a little boy his father, Charles Harper, kept the principal store in Jenkintown and in the house adjoining Thomas Buckman Harper was born. I knew him as a child, a young man, and then as a man of mature years, and never knew anything of him but to his credit.

Educated in the school of the village he went early into his father's store, to which business he later succeeded, but was not successful. Facing the future as only an American can, he hired a well-drilling machine and gave the business his undivided attention. He made it a great success and at the time of his death he owned a dozen machines and had them at work in all parts of the country, by means of which he had amassed quite a fortune.

He married Margaret, only daughter of William Bennett Carrell, at the old Carrell homestead at Ivyland, Bucks county, Pa., on October 8, 1879, who, with two sons and two daughters, survives him, his son, William Carrell Harper, succeeding in his father's business.

Big hearted and generous he was liked by every one. For twenty years he had served Grace Presbyterian Church as trustee. He was elected a director of the

Jenkintown National Bank, December 14, 1905, and served in that capacity until his death. He served the borough of Jenkintown as burgess and for many years had been treasurer of the Pioneer Fire Company of his native town.

The Twelfth Senatorial District has been singularly unfortunate in having two of its Senators in succession claimed by death and, after the death of Senator Roberts, Thomas Buckman Harper was elected to fill the vacancy. A better selection could not have been made, and you members of the Senate know how faithfully he performed his duties, and those of the Senators who attended the funeral know how many of his friends were there to attend the last sad rites. Taken from us in the prime of his life our loss is indeed great, but the greatest loss is the irreparable loss to his family, who have our sincere sympathy.

Mr. McILHENNY. Mr. President, I rise to pay a brief tribute to the memory of the late Senator from Montgomery county.

Senator Harper's career was so limited in our body that I did not grow to know him so well as I would have liked. Nevertheless, since he succeeded my friend Senator Roberts, and also from the fact that Montgomery county and the district I represent border each other, I doubtless knew him better and was thrown more closely with him than any other of our colleagues.

Such a death brings closely home to us the ever recurring riddle of a mysterious Providence.

While in robust health sudden disease overtook him at an age when in the course of nature he might have looked forward to many years of active service in this Senate.

He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but like so many of our fellow American citizens who have attained prominence in public and private life, he climbed the ladder of advancement with no aid but his own energy and perseverance.

His life, although short, yet was distinguished by solid success in the conduct of a useful business and by an active part in the government and life of his community.

Senator Harper's death is but an example of the many changes which have taken place in the Senate during the past four years. Only twelve senators who were here when I entered the Senate four years ago are members to-day. These changes cannot but compel the thought that at no distant date the career of each of us here will likely terminate. How grave the responsibility while we are here that we prove true to the trusts given by the people of this State to our keeping.

Senator Harper's name is now added to that long roll of those who have served here and are now no more.

His manners were simple and unpretentious. His relations with the other senators marked by consideration and kindness and his public duties performed in such a manner as to indicate an earnest desire to serve his constituents and this State with fidelity and honor.

"Sweet is the scene when virtue dies!

When sinks a righteous soul to rest,
How mildly beam the closing eyes,
How gently heaves the expiring breast.

Triumphant smiles the victor brow,
Fanned by some angel's purple wing,
Where, oh grave! thy victory now?
And where, insidious death, thy sting?

Its duty done—as sinks the day,
Light from its load the spirit flies,
While heaven and earth combine to say,
‘Sweet is the scene when virtue dies!’ ”

Mr. President, I beg to second the resolutions.

Mr. BALDWIN. Mr. President, My acquaintance with Senator Harper only dates back to the time of his entrance in the Senate in February, 1909. Our seats were near together and we became very friendly, and I was very fond of him. He had a beautiful personality, was quiet, modest and unassuming but possessed an extremely good knowledge of men and affairs, which was a great advantage in his intercourse with his fellowmen and as a member of the Senate. He was at all times kind, courteous and obliging and never missed an opportunity to show his kindness and friendship to his associates.

Senator Harper was very attentive to his duties as a legislator and was always found in his place. It will be remembered that he was not elected until February 16, 1909, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Roberts, but at the time of his death he was the candidate of his party for renomination and would very surely have become a very prominent member of this body. We are very forcibly reminded of the uncertainties of life when we realize that within two years two Senators from Montgomery county have died and three members of our session of 1909. Some poet has written these lines:

“They are slipping away—these sweet, swift years
Like a leaf on the current cast,
With never a break in their rapid flow
We watch them as one by one they go
Into the beautiful past.”

There are only a few years left to live,
Shall we waste them in idle strife?
Shall we trample under our ruthless feet
Those beautiful blossoms fair and sweet,
By the dusty ways of life?

There are only a few swift years—ah, let
No envious taunts be heard;
Make life's fair pattern of rare design,
And fill up the measure with love's sweet wine,
But never an angry word!

Strew gladness on the paths of men,
You will not pass this way again."

Our departed brother was of a most bright, happy and affable disposition and did "strew gladness on the paths of men."

He was a warm-hearted true friend, a loving husband and father and a good citizen of the highest type.

"His life was gentle and the elements
So mix'd in him, that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

I deem it a privilege, Mr. President and fellow-Senators, to add on this occasion this hastily prepared tribute to his memory.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the resolutions?

The yeas and nays were taken and were as follows,
viz:

YEAS—50.

Adams,	Cooper,	Hays,	Jamison,
Alexander,	DeWitt,	Heacock,	Jarrett,
Baldwin,	Endsley,	Herbst,	Jones,
Buckman,	Fox,	Homsher,	Judson,
Catlin,	Gerberich,	Huffman,	Keyser,
Clark,	Hall,	Hunter,	Kline,

Knapp,	McNichols,	Snyder,	Weingartner,
Kurtz,	Miller,	Sones,	Wertz,
Manbeck,	Morgan,	Sproul,	Wilbert,
Martin,	Nulty,	Thomson,	Wolf,
McConnell,	Powell,	Tustin,	Crow,
McIlhenny,	Salus,	Vare,	Pres. pro tem.
McNichol,	Shields,	Wasbers,	

NAYS—0.

All the Senators having voted "aye," the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. TUSTIN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate take a recess until four o'clock.

Mr. FOX. Mr. President, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

At three fifty post meridian the Memorial proceedings were completed and the Senate took a recess until four o'clock post meridian.



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